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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

First Session
Rome, 29 September - 10 October 1997
CST Agenda item 3

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CST)

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional agenda

1. Opening
2. Election of vice-chairpersons
3. Adoption of agenda and organization of work
4. Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks
6. Benchmarks and indicators
7. Modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research and traditional knowledge; establishment of research priorities
8. Roster of independent experts and creation, if necessary, of ad hoc panel(s)
9. Other intersessional work

Annotations to the Agenda

Introduction

In accordance with paragraph 7 of the draft Terms of Reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (document ICCD/COP(1)/2), "(t)he Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties."

Venue

Article 24, paragraph 1 of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) provides that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall meet "in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties." The first session of the CST (CST 1) will therefore meet at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the first session of the Conference of the Parties. Tentatively, CST 1 has been scheduled to meet 30 September - 1 October 1997.

Participants

Article 24, paragraph 1 of the CCD provides that the CST "shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties." Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that sessions of CST will be open to observers in accordance with the draft rules of procedure.

Documentation

The CST will have before it the documents listed in Annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the Secretariat's world wide web site at the following address on the internet: <<http://www.unccd.ch>>.

1. Opening

In accordance with rule 22 of the draft rules of procedure (ICCD/COP(1)/2), the Chairperson of the CST shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties (COP). This will occur at the opening meeting of the COP on 29 September 1997. The first session of the CST will then be opened on 30 September by the Chairperson of the CST.

2. Election of vice-chairpersons

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the draft terms of reference of the CST, the CST shall elect its own Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. Paragraph 6 of the draft terms of reference provides: "The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms."

3. Adoption of agenda and programme of work

The CST will have before it this provisional agenda (ICCD/COP(1)/CST/1) for adoption. It has been prepared taking into consideration comments of members at the first part of the tenth session and submissions received subsequently, in accordance with the Committee's decision 10/11. A tentative schedule of work is found in Annex II.

Adoption of recommendations from INCD

Recommendations on the following matters in the domain of science and technology, which have already been agreed by INCD, will be referred to the COP for consideration and adoption at the plenary on 3 October 1997: decision 9/10 on the terms of reference of the CST, procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts and procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels.

New recommendations

Provision has been made in the CST schedule of the work for the drafting of necessary reports following discussion of the work of the CST during the afternoon of Wednesday 1 October 1997, including reports emanating out of discussions on the survey and evaluation of existing networks. Any new recommendations could also be dealt with at the plenary of the COP on 3 October 1997.

4. Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST

In accordance with INCD decision 10/8, taken at the tenth session of the INCD, the Secretariat updated its work on identifying other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST (document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4). The CST may wish to consider how to make use of this work in the context of the survey and evaluation of existing networks which may be authorised to be undertaken under agenda item 5.

5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks

In accordance with INCD decision 10/10, taken at the Committee's tenth session, the Secretariat solicited proposals for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support the implementation of the Convention in accordance with its article 25. Executive summaries of the proposals will be circulated in documents ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1 prior to the first session of the COP, as required by the decision.

In decision 10/10, the INCD recommended that the CST review, at its first session, the draft terms of reference for the work to be undertaken and make appropriate recommendations to the COP for their adoption. It also recommended that, having duly considered the proposals, the CST recommend the most suitable contractor for consideration and approval by the Conference of the Parties at its first session.

The CST may also wish to consider how to deal with the follow-up of any decision it may take with respect to the commissioning of the survey and evaluation concerned, for example, by establishing a small group of experts (which could take the form of an ad hoc panel, to be appointed by the COP) to review a draft of the survey and evaluation and provide comments prior to its being finalized for a subsequent COP.

6. Benchmarks and indicators

In accordance with INCD decision 10/9, taken at the Committee's tenth session, the Secretariat continued the open-ended consultative process on benchmarks and indicators previously established by the INCD. A preliminary report of the process is contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3. A supplementary report will be issued to take account of additional work (document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add. 1).

The CST may wish to consider how to continue the work on benchmarks and indicators, and, in that connection, consider whether there would be any value in recommending to the COP the establishment of an ad hoc panel on this subject.

7. Modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research and traditional knowledge; establishment of research priorities

In its decision 10/7, taken at its tenth session, the INCD invited members to submit to the Secretariat suggestions on the modalities of CST work on (a) inventories of research, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices, and (b) research priorities. It further requested the Secretariat to submit an expanded report on the subject, including modalities and timing, for consideration by the CST at its first session. The report is contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5.

8. Roster of independent experts and creation, if necessary, of ad hoc panel(s)

Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the COP is to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. By its decision 10/11, the INCD requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of nominations received by 31 May 1997 and to submit such a list to the first session of the COP for establishment of the roster (ICCD/COP(1)/6). The CST may wish to review the list, and make recommendations to the COP respecting the composition of the roster and respecting any guidance the COP may wish to give to the Secretariat as to the appropriate format for it.

Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the COP may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the CST, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in relevant fields of science and technology. The CST may wish to consider recommending to the COP the establishment of any ad hoc panels which may be required.

9. Other intersessional work

The CST may wish to consider recommending to the COP whether and how any other intersessional work in the domain of science and technology should be undertaken.

Annex I

List of documents prepared for the first session of
the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(1)/CST/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1	Supplementary report on survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3	Report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5	Reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research and traditional knowledge; establishment of research priorities

Annex II

Tuesday 30 September 1997		
	09:00 AM	02:00 PM
C	Organization of work (Doc. ICCD/COP(1)/CST/1)	- Survey and evaluation of existing networks
S	- Review of outstanding items	(Doc. ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2; and CST/2/Add.1)
T	- Inventories of research, traditional knowledge (Doc. ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5)	- Other bodies doing work similar to that envisaged for CST
	- Research priorities (Doc. ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5)	(Doc. ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4)
	- Benchmarks and indicators (Doc. ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3; and CST/3/Add.1)	
Wednesday 1 October 1997		
	09:00 AM	02:00 PM
C	- CST work programme	Report of CST to COP
S	- Establishment of roster of experts and creation of ad hoc panels as required	
T	(Doc. ICCD/COP(1)/6)	